

BENS WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

For anyone traveling about during these cold winter days, there are some items you want to have with you in addition to your hand-held radio. In case your vehicle breaks down, you'll want to have some heavy blankets, a flashlight, non-perishable food, and some water.

Jumper cables are a good idea too. Stay with your vehicle and wait for help to arrive. Use your car's heater sparingly (if it works at all) and bounce on the car seats to stay warm.

Bitter wind chills can be especially dangerous. Windchills colder than 20 degrees below zero can cause frost-bite on exposed flesh in only a minute or two. An actual temperature of 18 degrees and a 30 mph wind gives us a -21 windchill. A windchill of -40 would be reached if the temperature got down to 3 degrees with a 25 mph wind.

Keep in mind windchills are indicative of the cooling power of the conditions of the atmosphere. Water will not freeze with windchills below 32 degrees nor do windchills adversely affect inanimate objects.

As we begin 1994, I thought last year was worth one final look back. Highlights for 1993 in Indianapolis include: 50.76 inches of rainfall, which is well above the normal of 39.94". Also, the autumn (September through November) was especially wet with 16.24", making it the wettest autumn since 1921 and the 4th wettest on record.

When all was said and done, the yearly average temperature in Indianapolis was 52.1 degrees (compared to the normal of 52.3 degrees). The hottest day was 94 degrees on July 28th and the coldest day was a chilly -9 degrees on February 18th.

Looking ahead, much of the midwestern U.S. is expected to be colder than normal and precipitation will be near normal. Of course, 30 day forecasts of this kind are only about 53 percent accurate.

Ben Woods WISH-TV Meteorologist

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The class is free but you will need to purchase a book. For more information call Bill KA9ZMU at (317) 738-9424

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MARC

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Mac McCarty NV9K Editor